

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 051245Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3313

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3773

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PRESIDENT DENIES SPLIT IN ARMED FORCES

REF: FBIS LONDON 042035Z JUL 75 (COSTA GOMES SPEECH)

1. IN UNSCHEDULED ADDRESS TO NATION EVENING JULY 4, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES CALLED FOR END TO RUMORS OF DIVISIONS WITHIN ARMED FORCES AND A RETURN TO WORK OF THE REVOLUTION. MAIN POINTS INCLUDED:

- PEOPLE ARE TALKING TOO MUCH AND WORKING TOO LITTLE.
 - RUMOR OFFENSIVE IS LEADING COUNTRY INTO UNWHOLESOME ATMOSPHERE OF AGITATION AND ANXIETY, WHICH IS PROPITIOUS CLIMATE FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES.
 - COMMON DENOMINATOR OF RUMORS IS ASSERTION THAT THEIR ARE GRAVE DIVISIONS WITHIN ARMED FORCES.
 - ONLY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TAKING
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ADVANTAGE OF WHOLESOME PLURALISM OF OPINIONS WHICH NOW EXISTS.

-- ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CURRENTS OF OPINION AMONG MILITARY MEN,
THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE IN FREE SOCIETY.

-- ARMED FORCES IS COHESIVE IN ACTION, INTENT UPON DEFENDING
ORDER, AND DETERMINED TO WIN WITH DISCIPLINE AND WORK.

-- PORTUGAL NEEDS SERENITY AND CLIMATE OF PHYSICAL AND
PSYCHOLOGICAL CALM TO LEAD IT TO NEW LEVELS OF TOLERANCE AND
DISCIPLINE IN WORK AND SACRIFICES WHICH LIE AHEAD.

2. IN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE UNITY, PRESIDENT WAS FLANKED
ON PODIUM BY LEADING MEMBERS OF REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC),
INCLUDING: VASCO GONCALVES, OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO, ROSA
COUTINHO, FABIAO, PINTO SOARES, MARAIS E SILVA, AND RAMIRO CORREIA.

3. FACT THAT PRESIDENT FELT COMPELLED TO SPEAK TO NATION IS ITSELF
A COMMENT ON SERIOUSNESS OF CURRENT SITUATION. PRIME MINISTER
VASCO GONCALVES COMMENTS TO PRESS FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S SPEECH
UNDERScoreD THIS POINT. GONCALVES DENIED THAT COUNTRY WAS IN
IMMINENT DANGER OF "ANOTHER MARCH 11" BUT ADDED THAT POPULAR
VIGILANCE WAS IN ORDER IN CASE IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO AGAIN
DEFEND REVOLUTION.

4. WHILE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WILL CERTAINLY NOT PUT AN END TO
TENSION, IT MAY BE USEFUL DEVICE FOR PULLING TOGETHER RC AND AFM,
AT LEAST TEMPORARILY STRENGTHENING COHESION OF ARMED FORCES IN
FACE OF CENTRIFUGAL FORCES REPRESENTED BY INABILITY TO DEAL
EFFECTIVELY WITH GROWING LIST OF PROBLEMS -- RADIO RENASCENCA,
REPUBLICA, TLP STRIKE, PIDE ESCAPE, TRAIN FARE CONTROVERSY,
DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, ETC.

5. WITH AFM ASSEMBLY ONLY THREE DAYS OFF, PRESSURES ARE BUILDING
WITHIN AFM FOR TILT TOWARD LEFT IN TRANSLATING GUIDELINES OF
JUNE 21 POLITICAL ACTION PLAN INTO PRACTICE. NAVY AFM ASSEMBLY
WHICH MET EARLIER IN WEEK CALLED FOR STRONG ACTION TO STRENGTHEN
"PROGRESSIVE" FORCES. ARMY AFM ASSEMBLY HAS ALSO JUST ISSUED
STATEMENT CALLING FOR FIRM ACTION TO REASSERT AUTHORITY AND
IMMEDIATE, CONCRETE STEPS TO ENSURE "CORRECT PROGRESSIVE
INTERPRETATION" OF PLAN (LISBON 3771). SIMILARLY, BUILDING UPON
RECENT MINI-RESURGENCE OF FAR-LEFT WHO HAVE LED MILITANT WORKERS
IN CURRENT LABOR DISPUTES, LIKE-MINDED ELEMENTS WITHIN AFM WILL
PRESS AT AFM ASSEMBLY FOR ADOPTION OF PROGRAM OF DIRECT AFM LINKS
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WITH "PEOPLE."
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